

Appl. No. 10/734,850
Amdt. dated May 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 7, 2004

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed December 7, 2004. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments. The claims have been amended to address formalistic issues raised by the Examiner. No new matter has been entered as a result of these amendments.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability for all claims once the formalistic issues have been resolved. Applicants believe that the pending claims are patentable over the prior art for at least the reasons enumerated by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to claim 5 for particular informalities. Claim 5 has been appropriately amended, thereby resolving the objection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 2-4 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 1, from which claims 2-4 and 9 depend, has have been amended as suggested by the Examiner, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 1 has been appropriately amended, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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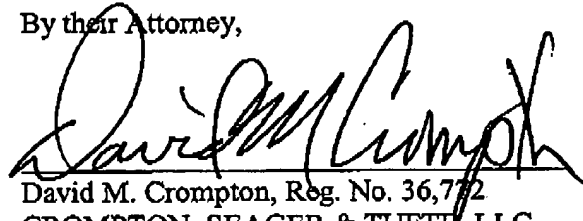
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshiaki Murai et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: 5/24/05



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